Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/806,355	SUGAMURA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Naeem Haq	3625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to EXAMINER'S AMDT 1-3-07

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1,3,4 and 6*.

3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
   a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
   (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
   (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

   Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 8/6/2004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date *12/28/2006* .
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Naeem Haq, Primary

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Sheree Rowe on December 28, 2006.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application as follows:

1. (Amended) A process-delay-monitoring system comprising:

a server and brand manufacturer's terminal that belong to a brand manufacturer which is [[the]] an order-receiving party;

a dealer's terminal that belongs to [[the]] a dealer which is [[the]] an ordering party and that is connected to said server via a communications line such that they can communicate with each other; and

a parts manufacturer's terminal that belongs to a parts manufacturer and that is connected to said server via a communications line such that they can communicate with each other, and

wherein said server has a processor that executes program instructions comprising:

~~a function of managing information about processing and process delays from the time when an order for parts is received from said dealer's terminal until the scheduled delivery of the parts, and has a function of providing information about said processing and process delays of the parts being managed, when there is access from said dealer's terminal;~~

receiving an order for parts from said dealer's terminal;

managing information about processing and process delays from the time when said order for parts is received from said dealer's terminal until the scheduled delivery of the parts;

providing information about said processing and process delays of the parts being managed to said dealer's terminal;

wherein said brand manufacturer's terminal transmits ~~is used when entering~~ various information and has a communications and display function, and

wherein said dealer's terminal has a communications and display function and is connected to said server ~~and~~ in order to display ~~is used when giving~~ instructions for ordering said parts and viewing information about said processing and process delays of the parts, and ~~has a communications and display function; and~~

wherein said parts manufacturer's terminal has a communications and display function and receives procurement information from said brand manufacturer's terminal related to the procurement of said parts, ~~and has a communications and display function~~, and

~~wherein~~

wherein said server is accessed from said dealer's terminal and brand manufacturer's terminal by using an order contract number to view information about said processing and process delays for a part,

~~an order contract number is used when accessing said server from said dealer's terminal and brand manufacturer's terminal to view information about said processing and process delays for a part.~~

wherein said server further comprises:

a received-order database that stores order information received from said dealer's terminal;

~~a received-order database in which the contents of the order received from said dealer's terminal is registered;~~

a work-in-progress database that stores order information, an ITEM No. for managing the order information, and an ID number attached to said ITEM No.;

~~a work-in-progress database in which the received-order information contained in the received-order contents registered in said received-order database, an ITEM No. for managing that received-order information, and an ID number attached to said ITEM No. are registered;~~

a procurement database that stores procurement information for parts ordered from said parts manufacturer;

~~a procurement database in which procurement information for said parts ordered from said parts manufacture is registered;~~

an inventory database in which inventory information for said part and delivery information from said parts manufacturer are registered;

a registered-information-management-function unit that ~~has a function of registering~~ registers said order information ~~received-order contents~~ in said received-order database, ~~registering~~ registers said ~~received-order~~ order information in said work-in progress database, and registers ~~registering~~ said procurement information in said procurement database and said work-in-progress database;

a management-number-issuing-function unit that ~~has the function of issuing~~ issues ITEM Nos. for managing said ~~received-order~~ order information after said ~~received-order~~ order information has been registered;

an inventory-check-function unit that ~~has the function of checking~~ checks from said inventory database whether or not there is inventory after said ~~received-order~~ order information has been registered by said registered-information-management-function unit;

an allocation-process-function unit that ~~has the function of performing~~ performs an allocation process for the inventory ~~when~~ after said inventory-check-function unit checked and determined there was inventory;

a distribution-calculation-function unit that ~~has the function of calculating~~ calculates [[the]] a distribution and cost of [[the]] an insufficient part of [[an]] the order based on [[the]] a quantity ~~when~~ after said inventory-check-function unit checked and determined there was insufficient inventory;

a schedule-creation-function unit that ~~has the function of creating~~ creates a schedule of processing after [[the]] a date and time that the allocation process was performed ~~when the allocation process was performed~~ by said allocation-process-function unit;

a schedule-correction-function unit that ~~has the function of calculating~~ calculates a corrected procedure of processing after it is determined by comparison with [[the]] a standard procedure that there will be a delay for the insufficient part ~~portion~~, ~~when~~ after said inventory-check-function unit checked and determined there was insufficient inventory; and

a search-function unit that ~~has the function of searching~~ searches [[the]] information stored ~~registered~~ in said work-in-progress database according to a work-in-progress-search instruction from said dealer's terminal or said brand manufacturer's terminal when there is access from said dealer's terminal or said brand manufacturer's terminal, and ~~providing~~ provides said information to said dealer's terminal or said brand manufacturer's terminal, ~~where~~

wherein said management-number-issuing-function unit ~~has the function of issuing~~ issues an ID number that is attached to said ITEM No. for managing said procurement information ~~when~~ after said inventory-check-function unit checked and determined there was insufficient inventory.

Claim 2: (Canceled)

Claim 3: (Amended) The process-delay-monitoring system of claim [[2]] 1 wherein said registered-information-management-function unit registers said ITEM No. that was issued by said management-number-issuing-function unit and the ID number that is attached to said ITEM No. in said work-in-progress database, registers the results of the calculation by said distribution-calculation-function unit in said work-in-progress database, registers the schedule created by said schedule-creation-function unit in said work-in-progress database, and registers the corrected schedule that was created by said schedule-correction-function unit in said work-in-progress database.

4. (Amended) A process-delay-monitoring method comprising:

providing a server and brand manufacturer's terminal that belong to the brand manufacturer which is [[the]] an order-receiving party;

providing a dealer's terminal that belongs to [[the]] a dealer which is [[the]] an ordering party and that is connected to said server via a communications line such that they can communicated together; and

providing a parts manufacturer's terminal that belongs to the parts manufacturer that is connected to said server via a communications line such that they can communicated together; and that monitors process delays from the time when the order for parts is received from said dealer's terminal until the scheduled delivery of said parts, and wherein said server has a processor that executes program instructions comprising: ~~process of managing information about processing and process delays from the time when the order for parts is received from said dealer's terminal until the scheduled~~

~~delivery of said parts, and a process of providing information about the processing and process delays of said parts being managed, when there is access from said dealer's terminal or brand manufacturer's terminal;~~

receiving an order for parts from said dealer's terminal;

managing information about processing and process delays from the time when said order for parts is received from said dealer's terminal until the scheduled delivery of the parts;

providing information about said processing and process delays of the parts being managed to said dealer's terminal;

~~wherein said brand manufacturer's terminal is used when entering various information and has a communications and display process;~~

entering various information into said brand manufacturer's terminal; and

~~said dealer's terminal is connected to said server and is used when giving instructions for ordering said parts and viewing information about processing and process delays of said parts, and has a communications and display process; and~~

transmitting an order for parts from said dealer's terminal to said server; and

receiving and viewing, by said dealer's terminal, information about processing and process delays of said parts transmitted by said server; and

~~where said parts manufacturer's terminal receives procurement information from said brand manufacturer's terminal related to the procurement of said parts, and has a communications and display process;~~

receiving, by said parts manufacturer's terminal, procurement information from said brand manufacturer's terminal related to procurement of said parts; and

~~and where an order contract number is used when accessing said server from said dealer's terminal to view information about processing and process delays for said part.~~

accessing said server from said dealer's terminal and brand manufacturer's terminal by using an order contract number to view information about said processing and process delays for a part,

wherein said server further performs the steps comprising:

storing order information received from said dealer's terminal in a received-order database; and

~~a received-order database in which the contents of the order received from said dealer's terminal is registered;~~

storing order information, an ITEM No. for managing the order information, and an ID number attached to said ITEM No. in a work-in-progress database; and

~~a work-in-progress database in which the received-order information contained in the received-order contents registered in said received-order database, an ITEM No. for managing that received-order information, and an ID number attached to said ITEM No. are registered;~~

storing procurement information of parts ordered from said parts manufacturer in a procurement database; and

~~a procurement database in which procurement information for said part ordered from said parts manufacturer is registered;~~

storing inventory information of said part and delivery information from said parts manufacturer in an inventory database; and

~~an inventory database in which inventory information for said part and delivery information from said parts manufacturer are registered;~~

registering, by a registered-information-management-function unit, order information received from said dealer's terminal in said received-order database; and

registering, by a registered-information-management-function unit, order information received from said dealer's terminal in said work-in-progress database; and

registering, by a registered-information-management-function unit, said procurement information in said procurement database and said work-in-progress database; and

~~and has a process of registering said received-order contents in said received-order database, registering said received-order information in said work-in-progress database, and registering said procurement information in said procurement database and said work-in-progress database by a registered-information-management-function unit;~~

issuing an ITEM No. for managing said order information by a management-number-issuing-function unit after said received-order information has been registered; and

~~a process of issuing an ITEM No. for managing said received-order information by a management-number-issuing-function unit after said received-order information has been registered;~~

~~a process of~~ checking from said inventory database by an inventory-check-function unit whether or not there is inventory after said ~~received~~ order information has been registered by said registered-information-management-function unit; and

~~a process of~~ performing an allocation process by an allocation-process-function unit for the inventory ~~when~~ after said inventory-check-function unit checked and determined there was inventory; and

~~a process of~~ calculating [[the]] a distribution and cost of [[the]] an insufficient part of an order by a distribution-calculation-function unit based on [[the]] a quantity ~~when~~ after said inventory-check-function unit checked and determined there was insufficient inventory; and

~~a process of~~ creating a schedule by a schedule-creation-function unit of processing after [[the]] a date and time that the allocation process was performed when the allocation process was performed by said allocation-process-function unit; and

~~a process of~~ calculating by a schedule-correction-function unit a corrected procedure of processing after it is determined by comparison with [[the]] a standard procedure that there will be a delay for the insufficient part ~~inventory, when~~ after said inventory-check-function unit checked and determined there was insufficient inventory; and

~~a process of~~ searching [[the]] information stored ~~registered~~ in said work-in-progress database by a search-function unit according to a work-in-progress-search instruction from said dealer's terminal or brand manufacturer's terminal when there is

access from said dealer's terminal, and providing said information to said dealer's terminal,

wherein said management-number-issuing-function unit has a process of issuing an ID number that is attached to said ITEM No. for managing said procurement information ~~when~~ after said inventory-check-function unit checked and determined there was insufficient inventory.

Claim 5: (Canceled)

Claim 6: (Amended) The process-delay-monitoring method of claim [[5]] 4 wherein said registered-information-management-function unit can has a process of registering said ITEM NO. that was issued by said management-number-issuing-function unit and said ID number that is attached to said ITEM No. in said work-in-progress database, a process of registering the results of the calculation by said distribution-calculation-function unit in said work-in-progress database, a process of registering the schedule created by said schedule-creation-function unit in said work-in-progress database, and a process of registering the corrected schedule that was created by said schedule-correction-function unit in said work-in-progress database.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 6 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Statement of allowance is in reference to independent claims 1 and 4.

The present application is directed a system and method for monitoring the delay of an order for a part. The invention includes a brand manufacturer terminal and server, a dealer terminal, and a parts manufacturer terminal. The server receives an order for a part from the dealer's terminal and provides information about delays for the part. The server checks the inventory, allocates the inventory, calculates a cost and corrects a schedule for an insufficient part. Independent claims 1 and 4 recite the uniquely patentable combination of elements and functions of the server that includes a received-order database, a work-in-progress database, a procurement database, an inventory database, a management-number-issuing function, and inventory-check function, an allocation-process function, a distribution-calculation function, a schedule-creation function, a schedule-correction function, and a search function.

Discussion of the most relevant prior art:

The following references have been identified as the most relevant prior art to the claimed invention.

(i) *US 6,226,561 B1* to Tamaki et al. Tamaki discloses a production planning system that eliminates superfluous parts from a production plan. Tamaki fails to teach or suggest the combination of elements and functions of the server as noted above.

(ii) *US 2003/0050871 A1* to Broughton. Broughton discloses a system and method for tracking construction projects that updates a schedule in response to changes in material [0061]. However, Broughton fails to teach or suggest the combination of elements and functions of the server as noted above.

(iii) *JP 09-064510* to Hitachi. Hitachi discloses a production system and method that modifies a production schedule when the stock falls below a minimum level. However, Hitachi fails to teach or suggest the combination of elements and functions of the server as noted above.

(iv) *Dialog File "Supply chain: modeling makes the difference"*. Dialog generally discloses supply chain software that can help companies manage their supply chains. However, Dialog fails to teach or suggest the combination of elements and functions of the server as noted above.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Naeem Haq whose telephone number is (571)-272-6758. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Smith can be reached on (571)-272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Naeem Haq, Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3625

January 3, 2007